(d) whether the Supreme Court's direction will apply to promotions in all Departments of the Air-India; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Special leave to Petition has been filed against the order of the Delhi High Court and the same has been granted by the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court is awaited.

Soft pedalling of errant officals in Air India

2870. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Soft pedalling of errant officals" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi of the 5th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether any rules had been framed as envisaged in the Service Rules for appointment to the post of Deputy Managing Director of Air India;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether these had been or will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(f) what is the manner in which the selection and appointment to this post was presently made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The inference contained in the news item are baseless.

(d) to (f) The post of Deputy Managing Director below the Board level is filled by selection from amongst the officers of the level of Director by the Board of Directors. The Board level appointments to the post of Dy. Managing Director are made by selection through Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) and approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The present appointment, which is a Board level appointment, has been made through the PESB with the approval of ACC.

Construction of Helipad in Darjeeling.

2871. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Helipad was constructed at Mirik by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council during the last visit of the President of India to Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, whether permission was given by the Government in this regard: if not, how this project was allowed and is being allowed for the construction of a permanent helipad there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Construction of helipad can be done at the State Government's level to meet the immediate requirement of VIP movement. However, prior to undertaking actual commitment, the Ministry of Defence clears the construction of helipad from the safety angle.

Cases of pilferage at Safdarjung Airport

2872. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that on 14th, June, 1991 one man was caught at Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi carrying one part of an aeroplane costing about Rs. 1.25 lakhs;

(b) whether in another incident copper wire was removed on three occasions costing about $ 15,000;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) On 14th June, 1991, an ex-employee of Indian Airlines was found carrying two